



Becoming Generous – 1 Timothy 6:3-19

Read 1 Timothy 6:3-19. Paul's final exhortation to Timothy in this letter is against false teachers, and promoting a life of integrity, but it is heavily seasoned with talk about money and wealth. What is the relationship between integrity and wealth? Why does Paul bounce back and forth between these topics?

Focus in on verses 6-8 and compare them to the end of 17. What do those verses say to you? Would you use the word "content" to describe yourself? Are you experiencing the enjoyment of God's rich provision in your life?

Focus in on verses 9-10. What do those verses say to you?

Verses 11-16 seem like the end of the letter. Paul even uses the word "Amen" at the end of verse 16, but then, like a postscript, he tags on a couple more exhortations, and one of them relates to money. Again, why do you think teaching on money is so important to Paul?

Read verse 17 again. Paul is talking as if money competes with God for our affections. Jesus said the same thing in Matthew 6:24. Do you think Christians today take seriously the connection between money and spiritual health?

In 18-19, Timothy is supposed to "command" the people in his church who have financial means to be "rich in good deeds, to be generous and willing to share." When it comes to generosity which of these hurdles is the biggest in your life:

- * I don't know how to be generous. (where to give money, how much, etc.)
- * It's hard to trust God's provision given my current financial situation.
- * I'm not convinced that there really is a future reward for my generosity.
- * Something else...

Take it Home

On Sunday, I suggested that generosity comes in three levels, and that they should be pursued in order from 1-3. At what level are you?

Three Levels of Generosity

1. **Gratitude** — pre-planned wealth reduction / tithe.
2. **Passion** — financially prioritizing a project I choose.
3. **Impulse** — being prepared for spontaneous action.

This year, at LCC, I'm asking for \$19.95 per family member, so we can bless Matrix and some needy people in our community and so we can set aside some seed money for tearing down the building at 2311 Concord. Are you able to participate?



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